

Remarks/Arguments:

Claims 1, 3-11, 13-21 and 23-25 are pending in the subject patent application. Claims 1, 16, 19 and 21 are amended by this amendment. Basis for the amendments to the claims may be found in paragraph [0064].

Claims 1, 14, 16, 17 and 19-21 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. patent no. 6,337,658 to Tong et al. (hereinafter. "Tong"). Applicants respectfully request reconsideration. In particular, Tong does not disclose or suggest, "receiving the RF signal from the plurality of antennas, to receive the RF signal from multiple directions," as required by claim 1. While not identical to claim 1 claims 16, and 21 include similar limitations.

Tong concerns a transmit antenna alignment peak search method and apparatus. As described in the background of Tong, "the dish antenna at the ground terminal can be aligned with the satellite by monitoring received signal strengths and frequency spectra...." Tong discloses using only a single dish antenna and a single characteristic to align the antenna. In the examples given, Tong uses "an alignment accuracy indication (which is assumed to be a SNR measurement (signal-to-noise ratio) i.e. Eb/No for this example)...." (See col. 4, lines 50-52). The method and apparatus disclosed by Tong determine an alignment direction based on the maximum value of Eb/No. (See col. 6, lines 49-54).

Tong does not disclose or suggest, "receiving the RF signals from the plurality of antennas, to receive the RF signal from multiple directions" as required by claims 1, 16 and 21.

Because Tong does not disclose or suggest at least this limitation of claims 1, 16 and 21, these claims are not subject to rejection in view of Tong under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b). Claim 14 depends from claim 1, claims 17 and 19-20 depend from claim 16. Thus, these claims are not subject to rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) in view of Tong for at least the same reasons as their base claims.

Applicants appreciate the indication in the Office Action that claims 3-13, 15, 18 and 23-35 are objected to as being dependent upon rejected base claims and that these claims would be allowable if amended to be in independent form including the limitations of their base

claims and any intervening claims. Because, as set forth above, claims 1, 16 and 21 are not subject to rejection, claims 3-13, 15, 18 and 23-35 are also not subject to rejection.

The prior art made of record but not relied upon has been considered and does not affect the patentability of the invention.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicant requests that the Examiner reconsider and withdraw the rejection of claims 1, 14, 16, 17 and 19-21 and the objection to claims 3-13, 15, 18 and 23-35.

Respectfully submitted,



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